

Remarks

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed March 16, 2004. Claims 1, 3, 6-8 and 12-14 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. In the Office Action, claims 1, 3, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and claim 8 was allowed. Claims 1, 3, 6 and 7 has been cancelled. Therefore, no response is required with regard to claims 1, 3, 6 and 7.

Other Remarks

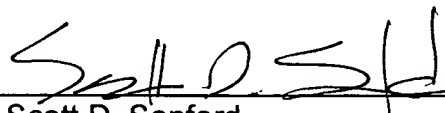
The references cited by the Examiner but not relied upon have been reviewed, but are not believed to render the claims unpatentable, either singly or in combination.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned before an advisory action is issued in order to avoid any unnecessary filing of an appeal.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0639 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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